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CLAIMS

1. An attachment mechanism for attaching together a pet lead and a clip for a pet collar, the mechanism comprising a male portion adapted for connection to one of the lead or clip, and a female portion adapted for connection to the other of the clip or lead respectively, wherein the male portion is a shank having a lug at a distal end thereof and the female portion is a sleeve having a slot in a side wall thereof that is shaped to laterally receive the shank and lug therethrough and allow the lug to move longitudinally to a seat, from where it must be moved longitudinally then laterally to be removed from the sleeve.
2. A mechanism as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a plug shaped for fastening receipt in the sleeve slot whereby, once the shank and lug have been inserted through the slot, the plug can be inserted and fastened into the slot to lock the shank and lug in the sleeve.
3. A mechanism as claimed in claim 2, wherein the plug has opposing projecting finger/s, each having a hooking formation at a free end thereof, and wherein an internal wall of the sleeve has corresponding hole/s defined therethrough, each hole for receiving a respective part of the hooking formation therein to fasten the plug in the sleeve when it is inserted into the slot.
4. A mechanism as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the male portion is integrally formed with and extends from a proximal end of the clip, and the female portion is adapted for connection to a distal end of the lead.
5. A mechanism as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the female portion is connected to a link, with the link being inserted through a loop defined at a distal end of the lead.
6. A method of assembling the lead and clip of claim 2 or 3, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) laterally inserting the lug and shank into the slot;
 - (b) longitudinally moving the shank so that the lug becomes seated at the sleeve seat; and
 - (c) inserting and thereby fastening the plug into the slot to secure the lug in the sleeve and to sandwich the lug between the plug and the sleeve seat.
7. A clip for a pet lead or pet collar, the clip being configured in the shape of an animal, characterised in that a portion of the animal's anatomy is moveable to mechanically operate the clip.

8. A clip as claimed in claim 7, wherein the portion of the animal's anatomy comprises a latching means for opening the clip and enabling it to be clipped onto a shackle or ring.
- 5 9. A clip as claimed in claim 8, wherein opposing portions of the latching means are respectively configured in the shape of an ear and a jaw of the animal shape such that, by moving the ear portion of the latching means, the jaw portion of the latching means can move between open and closed positions.
- 10 10. A clip as claimed in claim 8 or 9, wherein the latching means is a lever arm pivotally mounted intermediate its ends to a remainder of the clip, with one end of the lever arm defining a protruding ear of the animal shape for manual
10 engagement by a user, and the other end of the lever arm defining a jaw portion of the animal shape that can move to open a mouth portion of the animal shape and into which a loop of a shackle or ring can be located.